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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 CU-04 IO-12

OIC-04 RSR-01 /147 W

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R 031110 Z APR 73 ZFG ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5889

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

ALL CSCE CAPITALS 178

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0865

E. O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: EASTERN COUNTER- PROPOSALS IN FREER MOVEMENT FIELD

REF: HELSINKI 849

BEGIN SUMMARY. WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES HAVE NOW INDICATED CAUTIOUS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT DETAILED DISCUSSION IN CSCE OF HUMAN CONTACTS AND CULTURAL COOPERATION ISSUES. AT APRIL 2 WORKING GROUP MEETING, THEY TABLED SEPARATE MANDATES ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION, EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE, AND " EXCHANGE" OF INFORMATION. PAPERS ARE SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN REVISED DANISH (I. E. NATO) MANDATE AND COVER SIMILAR GROUND. WE EXPECT EASTERN PAPER ON HUMAN CONTACTS LATER THIS WEEK. INITIAL WARSAW PACT COMMENTS ON REVISED DANISH MANDATE (HELSINKI 814) WERE MODERATE IN TONE AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS IMPROVEMENT OVER INITIAL DRAFT, BUT CONSISTENTLY HELD THAT IT OVEREMPHASIZED SIGNIFICANCE OF HUMAN CONTACTS, WHICH WHILE IMPORTANT CONSTITUTE ONLY ONE ASPECT OF EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION. THIS LINE REFLECTS CLEAR INTENTION OF WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES TO TRY TO FOCUS BASKET III ON CULTURAL COOPERATION AND TREAT HUMAN CONTACTS AS SUBSIDIARY ELEMENT. ALL EASTERN SPEAKERS NOTED IMPORTANCE OF CORRECT " CHAPEAU" FOR THIS
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MANDATE AND SUPPORTED SOVIET DRAFT (HELSINKI 833). END SUMMARY.

1. CULTURAL COOPERATION. IN PRESENTING PROVINCE) AND IF COMMUNISTS DO NOT AGREE TO EVACUATION OF KILLED AND WOUNDED FROM OUTPOST, GVN WILL NOT RPT NOT ATTEND ANY FURTHER TPJMC SESSIONS.

2. HIEN, AS HE HAS DONE ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN PAST, UBT MATTER MORE STARKLY THAN JUSTIFIED. TPJMC MEETING TO WHICH HE REFERRED WAS SUBCOMMISSION SESSION HELD ON MAR 31. HOWEVER, THOUGH COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON TONLE CHAM ARE CONTINUING, MEETING OF TPJMC CHIEFS IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MORNING OF APRIL 3, LTG DANG VAN QUANG (MILITARY AND SECURITY ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT THIEU) STATED THAT CHIEFS MEETING WOULD BE HELD AND THAT GVN CHIEF DELEGATE, LTG PHAM QUOC THUAN, WOULD RAISE TONLE CHAM ISSUE AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. (EMBOFF SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THUAN APRIL 4, AT WHICH WE WILL EXPLORE GVN INTENTIONS ON HANDLING OF MATTER IN TPJMC.)

3. AT APRIL 3 PRESS BRIEFING IN VIETNAMESE, FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, READ MINISTRY STATEMENT ON TONLE CHAM, COPIES OF WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS (TEXT BEING SENT BY SEPTEL). HE ALSO VOLUNTEERED SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS. MAIN POINTS AS FOLLOWS.

A. SPOKESMAN SAID GVN IS TAKING ALL ACTION AVAILABLE TO IT TO SECURE EFFECTIVE ACTION ON TONLE CHAM. HE ANNOUNCED THAT MATTER WOULD BE FORMALLY RAISED IN TODAY'S SESSION OF RVN- PRG BELATERAL TALKS IN PARIS AND THAT GVN CONCERN WOULD BE BROUGHT FORMALLY TO ATTENTION OF 12 SIGNATORIES OF PARIS CONFERENCE. HE COMMENTED ON FAILURE OF ICCS THUS FAR TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION, DESPITE REPEATED APPROACHES BY GVN. AS NOTED IN STATEMENT ITSELF, SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT " CERTAIN MEMBERS" OF ICCS KNEW PERFECTLY WELL SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATIONS (PRESUMED REFERENCE TO CANADIANS AND INDONESIA). VIETNAMESE PRESS APRIL 3 CARRIES PICTURES OF CANADIAN ICCS PERSONNEL VISITING RACH BAP.

B. SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED TO ELABORATE ON WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE
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TAKEN BY GVN CONCERNING TONLE CHAM, BUT HE DECLINED TO DO SO WHILE STRESSING THAT COMMUNISTS MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHATEVER ENSUED.

4. COMMENT: GVN REGARDS CONTINUING ATTACKS ON TONLE CHAM A SERIOUS CHALLENGE AND A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. AS REPORTED IN REF A, GVN CALLED URGENT MEETING OF CHIEFS OF FOUR- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION ON MARCH 17 TO PROTEST LARGE- SCALE COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON TONLE CHAM AND RACH BAP, IN VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE. GVN, HAVING FAILED AT MARCH 17 CHIEFS MEETING TO GET JMC INVESTIGATION OF ATTACKS, REQUESTED ICCS TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION. US DELEGATION, IN LETTER OF MARCH 18, ALSO ASKED ICCS TO CONDUCT INQUIRY INTO VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE AT TONLE CHAM AND RACH BAP. ICCS PLENARY MARCH 19 DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION, BUT ACTION THWARTED BY POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REFUSALS TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION UNLESS THEIR SECURITY WAS GUARANTEED BY BOTH SIDES (WHICH PRG REFUSED TO DO). ALTHOUGH RACH BAP HAS BEEN RELIEVED, SITUATION AT TONLE CHAM, RESUPPLY OF WHICH IS VERY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF COMMUNIST ANTI- AIRCRAFT FIRE, IS INCREASINGLY SERIOUS. POSITION IS PRESENTLY TAKING UP TO 800 ROUNDS DAILY OF ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE.

5. BOTH POSITIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD BY GVN FOR YEARS AND WERE FIRMLY IN GVN HANDS AT TIME OF CEASEFIRE (SEE REF B FOR BACKGROUND), ARE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE, SINCE THEY COMMAND THE UPPER REACHES OF THE SAIGON RIVER. CONTINUED POSSESSION OF THE TWO POSITIONS BY THE GVN IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE SECURITY OF SAIGON ITSELF, SINCE THEY COMMAND THE RIVER INFILTRATION ROUTE. IF COMMUNISTS CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO OVERWHELM TONLE CHAM GARRISON, GVN MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO LAUNCH COUNTER- ATTACK WHICH COULD LEAD TO MAJOR BATTLE.

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